

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 AID-05 OMB-01 IGA-01 IO-10 /095 W

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R 031410Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7796

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

UNCLAS ANKARA 954

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS REACTION TO PROSPECTIVE CUTOFF OF US
MILITARY AID

REF: ANKARA 932

1. THE TURKISH PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND GAVE FAIRLY PROMINENT
BUT UNSENSATIONAL COVERAGE TO THE PROSPECTIVE CUTOFF OF US
MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

2. LEADING DAILY MILLIYET FEBRUARY 3 REPORTED THAT SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S EFFORTS WITH CONGRESS HAD PRODUCED NO RESULT, BUT
THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY MEET WITH THE TURKISH AND GREEK
FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS FEBRUARY 10. STORY CONTINUED,
HOWEVER, BY QUOTING UNIDENTIFIED MFA SOURCES TO THE EFFECT
THAT ESENBEL WOULD NOT LIKELY GO TO BRUSSELS IF AID WERE CUT
OFF, SINCE THE ATMOSPHERE WOULD BE "UNSUITABLE" FOR SUCH A
MEETING.

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3. TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SEMIH AKBIL TOLD THE PRESS FEBRUARY 2: "WE DO NOT THINK THE US CONGRESS WILL TAKE SUCH AN IRRESPONSIBLE DECISION. BUT IF THEY DO, WE WILL ALSO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES. THERE IS A CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE US CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION ON THIS SUBJECT. WHETHER THERE WAS AID OR NOT, TURKEY HAS EXISTED IN THE PAST AND WILL EXIST IN THE FUTURE. THE AID IS FOR THE COMMON INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AND IS NOT A FAVOR." ALSO, ON FEBRUARY 1, AKBIL ISSUED A STATEMENT REGARDING THE FIGHTING ON CYPRUS JANUARY 31 (REFTEL), BLAMING THE INCIDENT ON A GREEK INITIATIVE TIED TO THE FEBRUARY 5 CONGRESSIONAL DEADLINE.

4. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TURKISH DAILY NEWS FEBRUARY 3, WHICH WAS ALSO REPORTED BY THE TURKISH LANGUAGE ANKA NEWS AGENCY, SAID THAT A CUTOFF OF MILITARY AID DID NOT CONCERN TURKEY ALONE, BUT WOULD ALSO BE AT LEAST EQUALLY A PROBLEM FOR AMERICA AND NATO. ECEVIT SAID SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STAND OPPOSING THE CUTOFF WAS BOTH "REALISTIC AND FRANK."

5. EDITORIAL COMMENTS HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF THE PROSPECTIVE CUTOFF AND US POLICY. INFLUENTIAL COLUMNIST ABDI IPEKCI (MILLIYET, FEBRUARY 3) WROTE THAT TURKEY HAS ALREADY MADE CERTAIN GESTURES IN CYPRUS OUT OF GOODWILL, YET HAS RECEIVED NO CREDIT IN WORLD OPINION. A HURRIYET EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 3 SAID THE FEBRUARY 5 ACTION WOULD BE A TURNING POINT IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND IF AID IS CUT OFF, TURKEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO SHOW A STRONG REACTION. CUMHURİYET FEBRUARY 3 NOTED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, BUT COMMENTED THAT EVEN IF THE CUTOFF IS POSTPONED THIS TIME, THE THREAT WOULD CONTINUE TO HANG OVER TURKEY'S HEAD.
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